



CATAWBA COUNTY

COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION & FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM

PURPOSE

- ◎ One team in every county
- ◎ Involve diverse agencies and disciplines
- ◎ Review Child Fatalities for children under the age of 18 in the County
- ◎ Identify system problems, needing improvements in order to maximize the safety of the community's children
- ◎ Make recommendations that act to prevent child deaths and address child protection issues

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DATA

- ◉ In 2014, Social Services received 3,362 reports of child maltreatment (6,796 children)
- ◉ 2,067 met state criteria to be accepted for assessment (4,158 children)
- ◉ 42% of children involved were birth to 5 yrs old
- ◉ 34% were between the ages of 6 and 11
- ◉ 24% were between the ages of 12 and 18
- ◉ Neglect is most frequently type of report
- ◉ 50 reports assessed involved a positive drug screen for a newborn or mother at delivery
- ◉ 246 reports involving 497 children were investigated for significant physical abuse, sexual abuse or serious neglect

CHILD FATALITY DATA

- ◉ In 2014, there were 16 child deaths (15 in 2013)
- ◉ 62% of deaths involved children under the age of 1 (10)
- ◉ 13% ages 1-4 (2)
- ◉ 6% ages 5-9 (1)
- ◉ 13% ages 10-14 (2)
- ◉ 6% ages 15-17 (1)

CHILD FATALITY DATA

- ◎ 44% of child deaths in Catawba County stemmed from prenatal issues/perinatal conditions (7)
- ◎ 32% due to illness (5)
- ◎ 6% due to drowning (1)
- ◎ 6% due to asphyxiation (1)
- ◎ 6% due to SIDS (1)
- ◎ 6% due to choking (1)

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- ◉ Properly assessing risk, safety, and trauma of children and families to prevent abuse, neglect, and inadequate prenatal care
- ◉ Continue prevention messages about Co-Sleeping/Safe Sleeping environments
- ◉ Enhance community awareness about the dangers of Distracted Driving Among Teens (Annual *Preventing Distracted Driving* Video Contest)
- ◉ Support the Period of Purple Crying for new parents
- ◉ Continue to advocate for early entry into Prenatal Care
- ◉ Support the Darkness to Light initiative regarding helping raise awareness of citizens to report child sexual abuse.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- ◉ Support substance abuse initiatives in the community (including Project Lazarus)
- ◉ Support Domestic violence initiatives in the community (Family Guidance Center)
- ◉ Examine prevalence of unrelated caretakers as perpetrators of abuse
- ◉ Explore legislation in other states criminalizing the abuse of substances by pregnant mothers

QUESTIONS?